

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:SASHELTON:BGT

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S/S-O:JTHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 0608

S E C R E T STATE 225514

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS:PGOV, PINS, PINT, NU, CS

SUBJECT:POSSIBLE MEDIATION EFFORT REGARDING NICARAGUA

1. COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT CARAZO TOLD US THAT HE HAD BEEN CONTEMPLATING OFFERING TO MEDIATE IN THE NICARAGUAN SITUATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLEAGUES.

2. IN OUR VIE SUCH A MEDIATION PROCESS APPEARS TO BE THE BEST COURSE NOW AVAILABLE TO MEET THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE NICARAGUAN SITUATION AND TO AVOID EITHER CHAOS OR AN EXTREMIST REGIME. WE FURTHER BELIEVE THAT THE BEST MECHANISM FOR SETTING A MEDIATION EFFORT IN MOTION AND OBTAINING AGREEMENT ON IT WOULD BE THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CHIEFS OF STATE ON THE BASIS OF THEIR CONCERN OVER THE

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SECURITY OF THE REGION. (WE THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SUCH A MOVE BE PERCEIVED PUBLICLY AND INTERNATIONALLY AS A SECURITY ISSUE OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO CENTRAL AMERICA AS DISTINCT FROM SOLELY A POLITICAL SUCCESSION ISSU:. AS A SECURITY ISSUE, WE ARE IN A MUCH BETTER POSITION TO SUPPORT THE CENTRAL AMERICANS -- AND THEY ARE IN A POSITION TO TAKE THE LEAD -- THAN IF IT IS JUST A SUCCESSION

ISSUE.)

3. WE INSTRUCTED AMBASSADOR WEISSMAN ON SEPTEMBER 5 TO INFORM CARAZO THAT WE HAVE NOTED HIS IDEA AND THAT IN OUR VIEW IT IS THE BEST WAY TO ADDRESS THE PRESENT SITUATION; THAT THE U.S. WOULD FULLY SUPPORT SUCH A STEP; THAT IF THE MEDIATION EFFORT ACHIEVES SUPPORT AMONG THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT BOTH SIDES IN NICARAGUA ACCEPT IT. WE HAVE ALSO TOLD CARAZO THAT SPEED AND DECISIVENESS ARE IMPORTANT NOW AND THAT WE STAND READY TO HELP ALTHOUGH WE SHOULD NOT AND CANNOT TAKE THE LEAD.

4. THE GOCR IS PRESENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF CONTACTING THE HEADS OF STATE OF HONDURAS, GUATEMALA AND EL SALVADOR, PREPARATORY TO AN EFFORT TO CONTACT SOMOZA. WE HAVE INSTRUCTED OUR AMBASSADORS IN THOSE COUNTRIES TO INFORM PAZ, LUCAS AND ROMERO RESPECTIVELY OF OUR SUPPORT FOR CARAZO'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A CENTRAL AMERICAN MEDIATION EFFORT.

5. FOR THE PRESENT THE FOREGOING IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE COSTA RICA-BACKED MEDIATION INITIATIVE IS BEING CARRIED IN THE COSTA RICAN PRESS AND WE ANTICIPATE WIDESPREAD PRESS AND PUBLIC INTEREST. SHOULD THE GON INQUIRE AS SECRET

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TO U.S. VIEWS ON THE CENTRAL AMERICAN INITIATIVE, YOU SHOULD INFORM THEM THAT THIS APPEARS TO US TO BE AN APPROPRIATE EXPRESSION OF CONCERN BY NICARAGUA'S NEIGHBORS AND WE WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A JOINT INITIATIVE. PRESS GUIDANCE WILL FOLLOW. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEACE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, NEGOTIATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE225514
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SASHELTON:BGT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P780187-2522, P840156-1996
Format: TEL
From: STATE SS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780997/aaaadckg.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f26efa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1529289
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NO TITLE
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, NU, CS, US, (CARAZO ODIO, RODRIGO)
To: MANAGUA WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f26efa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014